

## ***Iowa Council for Early ACCESS Meeting Minutes, January 17, 2014***

### **I. Call to order**

**Heather Moorman** called the **Iowa Council for Early ACCESS** to order at **10:08 AM** on **January 17, 2014** in **Clive, IA at the Country Inn and Suites**.

### **II. Attendance**

**Council Members Present:** Gladys Alvarez, Marti Andera (cc), Jeffrey Anderson, , Maria Cashman (cc), Paula Connolly, Chad Dahm, Gary Guetzko, Kevin Koester, Stacy Kramer (cc), Barbara Kahl (cc for Debra Waldron), Aryn Kruse, Julie Hahn, Angela Hance, (cc), LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl, Joshua Tessier (cc), Shari Huecksteadt, Kim Thomas, Heather Moorman

**Staff Present:** Rae Miller (cc), Meghan Wolfe, Kate Small, Melissa Schnurr

**Absent:** Gretchen Hageman, Janet Stauss, Debra Matzat, Mary Butler, Kasey Vermillion

### **III. Amendment to the Agenda**

Due to the winter weather conditions, Heather Moorman suggested amending the agenda so that council members could travel in the early afternoon with impending weather conditions. Changes to the agenda included presenting the APR indicators over the lunch hour, cancelling the family presentation, and cancelling the Intra-Agency Agreement update. Jeff Anderson moved to amend the agenda, Angie Hance seconded that movement.

### **IV. Approval of Minutes from last Meeting**

Minutes from the November 2013 meeting were reviewed and no corrections were noted. A **motion** was made by Angela Hance, seconded by Jeffrey Anderson. **Approved** unanimously.

### **V. APR (Annual Performance Report) Indicator Presentation**

C5 and C6 (child find Birth to One and Child Find Birth to Three).

Iowa met the target as a state for both indicators.

Questions from reviewing this indicator included:

- Do we show trend data to see if there are changes in referral sources? We can see changes from previous year's APR indicators and track if there was a change in where a majority of referrals were from. We would like to look at the First Five (IDPH) map and see if there is overlap in referrals from those areas in which First Five resides.

- Can you tease out information to see where the health referrals are coming from? How do we track those kids who are born out of state but live in Iowa?

It is hard to “drill down” some of the questions because data is not accessible with the current data system. One of the rationales for the Department moving to a new data system is to have easier access to data. We need to disaggregate referral data from ages 3-5. Only about 1,000 children transition from C to B.

Other comments and considerations regarding child count:

- In regards to referrals for NICU (neonatal intensive care unit) babies, we only get about half of the NICU babies who are likely eligible. Maybe those are the ones that show up at 3 years old (3-5 child count).
- How many children are on the autism spectrum? Doctors have said “you can’t diagnose autism until they are 3 or 4 years old.” Dealing with so many different personal and professional opinions is challenging. Some of them are more willing to work with you than others.
- Caseloads are a priority and lack of resources is probably a big reason. There is a capacity issue as well.
- Accumulation, or a lack, of environmental factors is something also hard to predict.

C7: Percent of eligible infants and toddlers with IFSPs within 45 days of referral  
Iowa was below the target with 99.84%; no discussion

C1: Percent of infants and toddlers receiving services within 30 days  
Iowa was below the target of 100% with 99.44% (2/354 children).

C2: Percent of services in natural environments  
Iowa exceeded the target as a state.

Questions or Comments:

Interested to see how this statistic will change over the years due to Routines Based Interviews (i.e. intervention can and should be happening anywhere)

Do AEA Human Resource policies recognize and support the flexible schedule for working with families who may work during the day (dual-income families)? Yes, it varies with each AEA, but all meet requirements of year round services being offered.

C4: Family Outcomes Indicator

Addressed slippage in two of the three outcome areas (not greater than 3% below target as a state). There was also variation among AEA results for this indicator. One consideration was a change in instrument; there were less survey items this year and questions were centered on each outcome with less overlap. Another consideration was that the survey process changed with the option of online survey completion and mail-in surveys were entered by the state monitoring consultant. None of AEAs entered data this year. Paula shared calls of concerns increased to ASK for 0-5 year olds compared to past year. For example, 4 calls were received prior years and 12 calls this year.

#### C8: timely transition

First year Iowa met timely transition conference to preschool or other services; met target for 100%. This is quite a large increase over the past 9 years which started below 50%.

#### Questions or Comments:

- Discussed the difference between C and B eligibility.
- Discussed language and reading connection and how children's language could be behind then caught up however later in school child falls behind in reading.
- It was suggested that the next council meeting might include more information regarding C4K (Collaboration for Kids) and the new literacy legislation.
- How do we address kids with summer birthdays who turn 3 and then have to wait until the school year starts to continue services?
- Resources, accessibility and availability differ from region to region.
- Discussed high need for partnership between 0-3 and 3-21 world.

#### C3: Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO)

Iowa was slightly below the target for outcome A (Positive social emotional skills) but there was no statistical difference from last year's scores. Iowa also did not meet the targets of substantially increased rate of growth in the three outcome areas. Iowa targets have been moving up each year, even though the data may not be statistically different than last year.

#### Questions and Comments:

- This data is critical for us to look at for providers, as increasing skills and school readiness is going to be challenging for them.
- Family perception versus reality is an interesting concept. If family scored high on meeting their child's needs, was this reflected in the ECO score?
- Are low ECO scores a national problem?
- We hope to improve the advocacy of fidelity of ECO scores using DMM (Distance Mentoring Model).
- Does the State suggest what instruments providers should be using for consistency throughout the state?
- Having service gaps is another thing that we need to consider. What other learning opportunities are out there for kids?

## **VI. Updates**

Part C application will be online about February 15, you are welcome to go online and make public comment.

The governor's report is finished and we will send out copies to everyone. Please let Kate know if you would like a hard copy.

One main take away is that the system is at capacity for the current funding- we need to try and find additional funding supports.

Gladys: Trauma and Informed conference will be charged per day so that people can register “ala carte”.

Day on the Hill is Early Childhood Day on the Hill.

Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholder Alliance meeting will be in the morning. From 12:00-1:00 p.m. there will be the cookies and conversations with people in separate quadrants of the rotunda. There is time from 1:00-2:00 p.m. for individuals to meet one on one with legislators

**Heather Moorman** adjourned the meeting at **1:22 pm** due to weather conditions.

A motion was made by Gary Geutzko and seconded by Julie Hahn. It was approved unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Kate Small